

Q: How did German invasion of Poland in 1939 become a world war of 1941?

## German Invasion On Poland 1939

The Nazi Germany, led by Hitler, invaded Poland on September 1, 1939 which was a direct breach of Treaty of Versailles (1919) and Kellogg Briand Pact. This marked the official initiation of world war II. German invasion on Poland was caused by Britain's appeasement policy of 1930s and Germany's aggressive foreign policy during the inter-war period. This invasion instigated <sup>other</sup> Axis and allied powers to form blocs in Europe and world war of 1941 began.

### 1- Causes Of German Invasion On Poland

Numerous factors allowed Hitler to continue his expansionist Lebensraum policies in Europe and emboldened Germany to invade Poland on September 1, 1939.

## i- Hitler's Aggressive Foreign Policy:

One of the main factors behind Germany's invasion on Poland was Hitler's aggressive foreign policy in 1930s. As Hitler came into power, he announced: "Borders are only made by a man and can be changed by a man." This triggered Germany's expansionist ~~foreign~~ <sup>Lebensraum</sup> policy in Europe, which compelled Germany to invade Poland in 1939.

## ii- Britain's appeasement Policy:

Britain's appeasement policy with aggressive powers of Europe was clearly visible in World Disarmament Conference of 1933. This policy led toward failure of diplomacy in Europe as Germany signed 10-year Non aggression pact with Poland in January ~~1934~~ <sup>1934</sup> because of Britain's appeasement policy. This emboldened Hitler to continue aggressive policies in Europe which led toward Germany's aggression on Poland.

## iii- Breach of Treaty of Versailles:

In January 1935, Germany gained the Saar region which was under the control of LONs for 15 years. This was breach of treaty of Versailles but Britain avoided interference with Germany's gain of Saar region. So, Hitler also announced the



reintroduction of conscription, which was a clear breach of treaty of Versailles. This breach allow Hitler to miscalculate that he could invade Poland without any pushback.

#### iv. Annexation of Austria:

The re-militarization of Rhineland in March 1936 and Rome-Berlin Axis of October 1936 encouraged Germany to continue ~~its~~ its aggressive policies in Europe. Britain's reluctance to intervene in Spanish civil war and lack of prevention of Hitler's support for Francisco Franco encouraged Hitler to annex Austria in March 1938 without any reluctance. This annexation fueled Hitler's aggressive policies in Europe.

#### v. Sudetenland Crisis 1938:

Hitler's disdain for democratic system of Czechoslovakia targeted Sudetenland in 1938. Britain, instead of resisting Germany, signed Munich agreement on September 30, 1938 which allowed Germany to annex Sudetenland. This allowed Hitler to fully occupy Czechoslovakia in March 1939, establishing Slovakia as a self-governing state under German oversight. This triggered Hitler's demand for Polish corridor that led toward German invasion on Poland in ~~193~~ September 1939.

# Aggressive Expansionist Policy of Hitler in Europe



March 1938



## 2-Factors Showing how German Invasion On Poland led toward World War of 1941

Following factors show how German invasion on Poland on September 1, 1939 led toward World War of 1941.

### i- Declaration of War by Britain against Germany:

Following German invasion on Poland, Great Britain declared war against Germany on September 3, 1939 as Britain had promised to defend its sovereignty against Nazi aggression. The intervention of Britain prompted France to declare war against Germany. In this way, the intervention of Britain and France in regional conflict transformed it into global conflict.

### ii- German Campaigns In Poland:

Germany had continued its Blitzkrieg tactics in Poland despite Britain's and France's declaration of war. On September 17, 1939 Soviet Union invaded Poland from Eastern side as stipulated in Nazi-Soviet non-aggression pact. By October 1939, Poland

had fallen to German and Soviet forces. So, Poland was annexed by Germany from western side and eastern Polish territories were annexed by Soviet Union. This expanded war into <sup>rest of the</sup> Europe.

### iii- Germany's Invasion On Denmark and Norway:

In April 1940, Germany launched operation Weserübung to invade Denmark and Norway. This aimed at securing resources of the Scandinavian countries and preventing intervention of Britain in Scandinavia. This further escalated war in Europe leading toward WWII.

### iv- Fall of France and Low Countries:

German invasion of Russia?

In May 1940, Germany invaded France, Belgium and Netherlands to establish large German empire. The rapid fall of France in June 1940 ~~appalled~~ <sup>appalled</sup> the world and transformed the <sup>regional conflict, initiated by</sup> German invasion on Poland in 1939, into a large-scale global conflict of 1941.



## v. Alignment of Axis Power Ambitions:

In 1940, Italy joined war on Germany's side. By 1941, Japan sought to expand its control in Pacific and South East Asia, thereby bringing its interests into conflict with great powers. The attack of Japan on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 led toward formation of two major blocs in the world. In this way, German invasion

Axis Powers	Allied Powers
Japan Italy Germany	U.S. , Great Britain, Soviet Union, China and European Colonies

Pact between Germany and Soviets?

on Poland in 1939, gave rise to alliance system and initiation of world war of 1941.

Write a paragraph on critical analysis.

## Conclusion :-

German invasion on Poland in September 1939 was the result of numerous factors including Britain's conviction in the efficacy of diplomacy. However, these factors led toward fall of diplomacy in

Add a quotation to your answer.

Europe and encouraged Hitler to invade Poland on September 1, 1939. This invasion instigated great powers and pushed the world toward war of 1941.